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BENJAMIN A. KIMBALL

By H. C. Pearson.

When Benjamin Ames Kimball passed away, at his summer home in Gilford, in the morning of Monday, July 25, 1920, the city of Concord and the state of New Hampshire lost their first citizen. In a few weeks he would have completed eighty-seven years of a life as distinguished for its usefulness and honor as for the long period of its active accomplishment, extending to the very end.

The tributes to Mr. Kimball's memory, which followed his death, came from all classes of people; from those to whom he was, first, the loyal and helpful friend; from the representatives of religious, educational and philanthropic institutions, in whose direction and support he had been a tower of strength; from his associates in the various lines of business in which he had been so successful; and from those who appreciated fully the great value of his public service, both as a railroad executive and as an agent of the commonwealth.

Said General Frank S. Streeter in a newspaper interview: "It is no exaggeration to say that Concord owes more to 'Ben' Kimball than to any other single citizen in its entire history..... His great public service entitles him to an enduring monument in the affection and memory of his fellow citizens."

Similar apprecation was voiced in the editorial columns of the state's leading newspapers and was evidenced by the distinction of those who came from all parts of the state and from Boston and New York to attend the simple funeral service at the home in Concord on the Friday following his death. And, a little later, when Mr. Kimball's last will and testament was filed for probate and its philanthropic content became known, there was further expression, public and private, in praise of the qualities of mind and heart which had combined in planning such benefits for future generations.

Benjamin Ames Kimball was born in Boscawen, August 22, 1833, the son of Benjamin and Ruth (Ames) Kimball, and the descendant in the eighth generation of Richard Kimball, who arrived in Ipswich, Mass., colony in the ship, Elizabeth, in 1634. The branch of the family to which Benjamin A. Kimball belonged removed to New Hampshire, at Exeter, about 1720, and in 1788 his great-grandfather, Joseph Kimball, became a resident of Canterbury. There the family remained, one of the most active and prominent in the town, until 1824, when Benjamin Kimball crossed the Merrimack river to Boscawen; dammed the Contoocook river near the town line between Boscawen and Concord; and erected there in 1831 a brick building, which still stands, for use as a grist and saw mill. He was a leading citizen of the community, and was elected to the Legislature in the March before his death, on July 21, 1834.

RESIDENCE IN CONCORD OF HON. B. A. KIMBALL.
HIS GIFT TO THE STATE AS AN EXECUTIVE MANSION.

He had married February 1, 1820, Ruth, daughter of David and Phebe (Hoit) Ames, and after his death the widow went to Concord with her two sons, little Benjamin and his older brother, John, afterwards mayor of Concord and styled in the city history, "the most trusted man in Concord."

Benjamin A. Kimball attended the schools of Concord and the Hildreth School at Derry in preparation for Dartmouth College, which he entered, as a member of the Chandler Scientific Department, with the class of 1854. He earned the degree of Bachelor of Science, with high honors, upon graduation, and in 1908 his alma mater conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. Mr. Kimball was the permanent secretary of his class and in that capacity had recorded the passing of all its members, with one exception.

The class at graduation numbered 61, of whom the best known, in New Hampshire, were General John Eaton and Colonel Daniel Hall, but whose general average of success in life and distinguished service was unusually high.

Mr. Kimball served as a member of the Board of Visitors to the Chandler Scientific Department from 1890 to 1895, and when, in the latter year, he began his long and valuable service as a trustee of the college, one of his first concerns was the complete merger of the C. S. D. with the college proper. During his quarter of a century as trustee, Mr. Kimball served on the finance committee of the board, much of the time as its chairman, and in this capacity his great business ability and experience were of inestimable benefit to the college in the days of its wonderful growth and expansion.

The wisely generous provisions in his will for his college showed him in death as in life a loyal Dartmouth man, ever desirous of promoting the best interests of the institution.

Returning to Concord after his graduation at Hanover, Mr. Kimball entered the employ of the Concord railroad shop, of which his brother, John, was master mechanic. After two years as a draftsman he become superintendent of the locomotive department and made the plans from which the Tahanto and other famous locomotives of the early days of New Hampshire railroading were built. He had himself become master mechanic, when in 1865 he resigned from the service of the railroad to become one of the founders of the firm of Ford and Kimball, manufacturers of car wheels and other iron and brass products. Throughout the remainder of his life he continued his connection with this substantial and successful Concord industry, widely famous for the high quality, maintained through so many years, of its output.

But his interests soon began to broaden. In 1873 he was chosen a director of the Manchester and North Weare Railroad. In 1879 he succeeded the late Governor Onslow Stearns as a director of the Concord Railroad. In 1895 he became president of the Concord and Montreal Railroad, formed by the consolidation of the Concord and Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroads, and so continued until, within the past year, the Concord and Montreal was merged into the Boston and Maine system.

At that time Mr. Kimball became a director of the Boston and Maine and held that position at the time of his death. He was also president and director of the Pemigewasset Valley Railroad, Mount Washington Railroad, New Boston

SUMMER HOME OF HON. B. A. KIMBALL AT LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE.

Railroad and the Nashua and Acton Railroad.

It would be hard to over estimate the importance of Mr. Kimball's work and the degree of his influence in railroad matters in New Hampshire. The present homogeneity of our state system is largely due to him, to his far-seeing intelligence and to his persistent efforts in the direction of consolidation, co-operation and improved service.

In an editorial tribute to his memory, Hon. James O. Lyford points out that "From almost the beginning of his railroad activity, Mr. Kmball was a strong advocate of a New Hampshire system of railroads, owned and operated within the state. If his advice and that of Col. John H. George had been followed, the old Concord Railroad would have leased the Lowell Railroad when it could have been leased at five per cent or less, and thus have secured terminal facilities in Boston. The consolidations that later took place would have thus been with the Concord Railroad as the parent road. The Boston and Maine railroad subsequently leased the Lowell Railroad at a much higher rate. With the Concord Railroad having terminal facilities in Boston the history of the Northern New England railroads might have been different than it is."

He was one of the first to comprehend the magnitude of the possible development of New Hampshire as a state of summer resorts and summer homes, and for that purpose, as well as for the benefit of the farms and factories of the state, he brought about the construction of various branch lines and extensions without which the Granite State could hardly have won and merited its title of the Switzerland of America.

The position of Mr. Kimball in the railroad world was of especial benefit to his home city of Concord, as shown, first, by the construction in 1887 of the spacious and handsome passenger station, one of the architectural ornaments of the capital; and, second, by the retention here and the very great enlargement of the railroad shops, which, with a thousand men employed, are now Concord's chief industry.

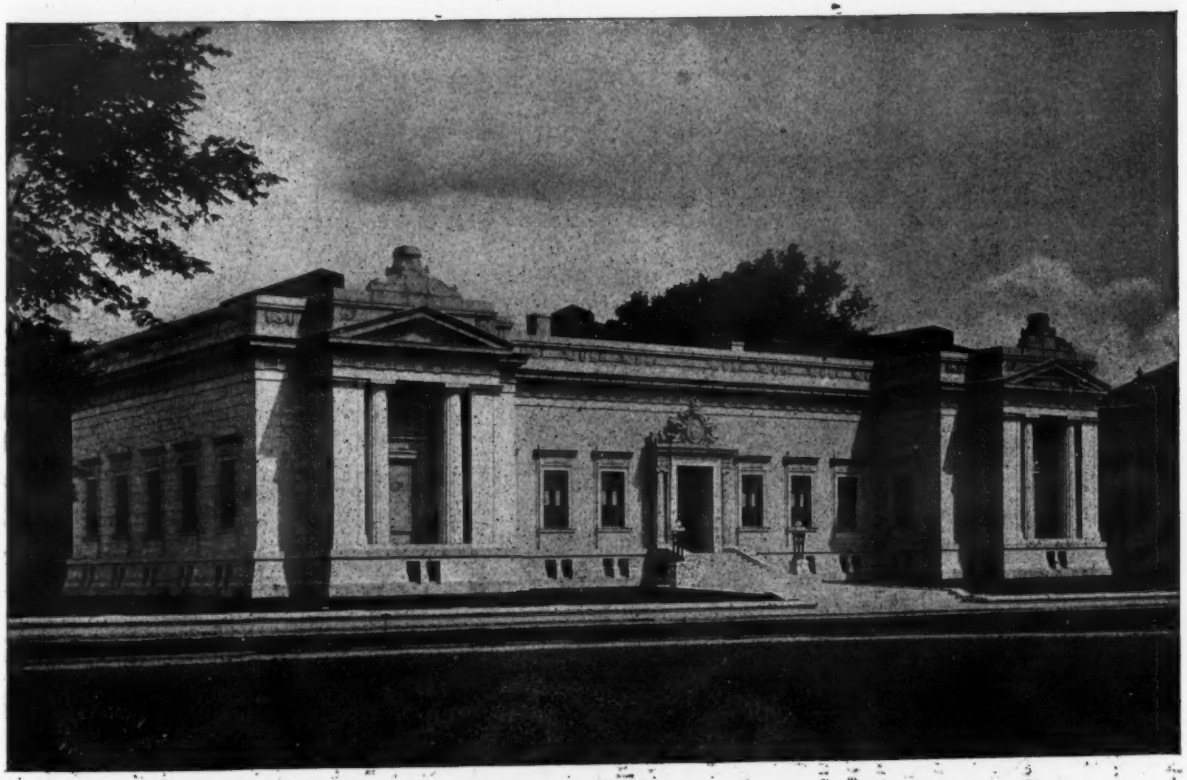
For more than thirty years President Kimball's private office in the southwest corner of the second floor of the passenger station building was the center of New Hampshire activity, accomplishment and influence to a greater extent than any other one room in the state.

Mr. Kimball's business connections were not only those of the railroad executive and the successful manufacturer. He was a trustee and president of the Concord Savings Bank during its existence and at the time of his death was a trustee of the Merrimack County Savings Bank and a director and president since 1884 of the Mechanicks National Bank, succeeding in that capacity the late Josiah Minot.

In 1885, when foreign insurance companies withdrew from New Hampshire in protest against our "valued policy" law, and it became the duty of public-spirited citizens to form mutual companies to meet the needs of the situation, Mr. Kimball was an incorporator and a director of the Manufacturers and Merchants Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

He was also one of the founders, a director and president of the Cushman Electric Company of Concord; and president and director of the Beechers' Falls Company at Beechers Falls, Vt., and of the Concord Light and Power Company.

In spite of the demands of his



HOME OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CONCORD.

various business activites, Mr. Kimball found much time to devote to the public service, not as a politician seeking office, but as an influential citizen promoting the welfare of his city and state.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Kimball was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1872, and was a delegate to three conventions, those of 1876, 1889 and 1902, to propose amendments to the constitution of the state. He was an alternate delegate to the national convention of his party in 1884 and a delegate-at-large to the convention of 1902. In 1884 he was elected to the executive council. Higher political honors he steadfastly declined, though they could have been easily gained by one of his power, influence and following.

But in far less than the usual degree does the list of the offices he held comprehend the extent of his public service. In bringing about the construction of a city water system in Concord, for instance, he was a prominent factor. He had much to do with the fruition of the Fowler Public Library plans. He was one of the commission which produced the excellent city history. His was a large share in the satisfactory location of the Concord federal building and in the enlargement of the state house. Governor Moody Currier delegated to him the choice and preparation of the site for the statue of Daniel Webster in the state house yard. He was commissioner from New Hampshire to the convention at Philadelphia, December 2, 1886, which arranged the program in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the adoption of the federal constitution on September 15, 16 and 17, 1887.

New Hampshire State Library.

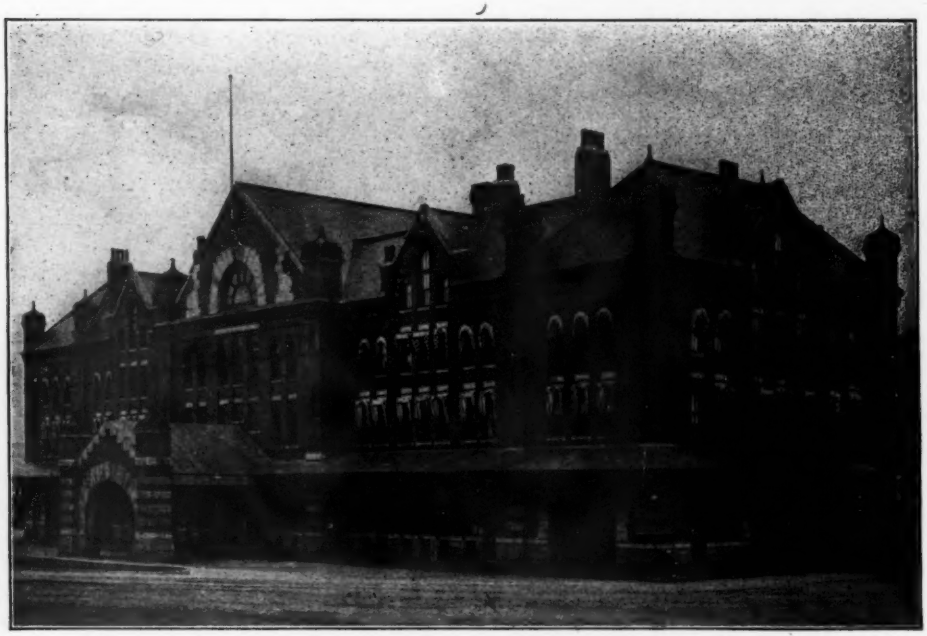
To some of us the three most important buildings in Concord's beautiful civic center, the state house, the state library building and the home of the New Hamp-

shire Historical Society, seem, in a way, monuments to Mr. Kimball.

In 1863, while he was a young man, he had a part in the hard fight which Concord had to wage in order to retain her position as the state capital. Fifty years later, in 1913, Manchester renewed the attack and of Concord's successful defense at this time Mr. Kimball was the chief in command. Against his determination and resourcefulness, the invaders never had a chance, powerful and predacious though they were.

One of Mr. Kimball's best weapons in this battle he had himself provided twenty years before when his influence secured from the legislature without a vote in opposition an appropriation for a building to house the state library and the supreme court, and when a commission, of which he was the active member, had completed the construction of the spacious and handsome edifice thus authorized. No stronger argument for retaining the state capitol in Concord could be imagined than this sister structure which owed its existence to Mr. Kimball's initiative and insistence, and which had proved itself so necessary and useful a part of the state government plant.

Across North State street from the state library, lies the beautiful building of the New Hampshire Historical Society an achievement in the art of architecture unequalled in the state and unexcelled in the nation, one of many munificent gifts by Mr. Edward Tuck of Paris to his native state. Mr. Tuck has had no closer friend in America than Mr. Kimball nor one in whose good judgment he had greater confidence. Mr. Kimball had long been a member of the Historical Society, interested in its work and aware of its



UNION PASSENGER STATION, CONCORD, N. H.

needs. He was its president, 1895-7, and chairman of its building committee in 1907. Through him and the late William C. Todd of Atkinson, Mr. Tuck was first interested in the need of the Society for an adequate home.

Judge Charles R. Corning, now president of the society, tells of these facts in a recent publication and after recording Mr. Tuck's favorable decision in the matter, continues:

"Mr. Kimball now became an important person in planning and directing the great scheme, as Mr. Tuck called it. Fortunate, indeed, it was to the donor and to the society that Mr. Kimball assumed control of the work from the beginning and continued in charge until its completion. Into this agreeable undertaking he entered with a full heart. Endowed with accurate architectural tastes, strengthened and enriched by long and varied experience, much reading and observation, Mr. Kimball was the ideal man for the work in hand. In intelligent and thorough method of preparation, attention to details, calm judgment and sound sense, few men in New Hampshire have been his equal. Here in Concord the railroad station, the state library, his Main street residence, attest the measure of his taste to the principles of attractiveness and usefulness in construction."

The Concord residence to which Judge Corning refers, the most spacious and elaborate dwelling in the city, stands amid extensive and beautiful grounds on South Main street, and its furnishings include many valuable paintings and objects of art chosen by Mr. Kimball during his frequent trips abroad. Between this residence and their summer home, "The Castle," in the town of Gilford, looking across the Broads of Lake Winnipesaukee, Mr. Kimball and his family divided quite equally their time. The Castle is one of the most striking and best known summer places in the lake country and the magnificence of the view from its eminence above the waters of Winnipesaukee is unsurpassed.

Mr. Kimball married, January 19, 1861, Myra Tilton, daughter of Ira and Rhoda (Ames) Elliott of Sanbornton. Their only child, Henry Ames Kimball, was born in Concord, October 19, 1864; was associated with his father in business; married, November 17, 1904, Josephine B. (Atkinson) Goodale, of Nashua; and died May 4, 1919. Mrs. Benjamin A. Kimball and Mrs. Henry A. Kimball are the surviving members of the household, to whom the sympathy of a great number of friends went out in full measure on the occasion of their bereavement.

Mr. Kimball was a member of the South Congregational church in Concord and a generous supporter of its work, as well as of many other good causes, including the New Hampshire Orphans' Home at Franklin of which he was a trustee. Kind of heart and quick in sympathy, his personal charities were as quietly carried into effect as they were many in number.

While in college Mr. Kimball was a member of the Vitruvian society which later became the Alpha Omega chapter of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He was one of the oldest members of White Mountain lodge, I. O. O. F., his membership having begun in 1856, and since 1899 he had belonged to the American Social Science Association.

Railroad offices and banks, in Concord, and the building of the New Hampshire Historical Society were closed on the afternoon of Mr. Kimball's funeral, and cars upon the street railway ceased op-

eration for a minute at the hour of the opening of the service. Rev. Dr. Harry P. Dewey of Minneapolis, Minn., Mr. Kimball's former pastor at the South Congregational church in Concord, conducted the service, which was held at the home on South Main street, with burial in the family lot at Blossom Hill cemetery. Veteran employees of the Ford and Kimball plant acted as carriers and the honorary bearers were President William J. Hustis, Vice-president William J. Hobbs and Directors Walter M. Parker and Alvah W. Sulloway of the Boston and Maine Railroad; President Ernest M. Hopkins, Frank S. Streeter and Albert O. Brown, trustees with Mr. Kimball of Dartmouth College; United States Senator George H. Moses and Henry W. Stevens, William K. McFarland, Arthur H. Britton, Dr. George M. Kimball, Dr. Charles P. Bancroft, Edward K. Woodworth, Harry H. Dudley, Benjamin W. Couch, John B. Abbott and Luther W. Durgin, all of Concord.

A few days later, Mr. Kimball's will was probated and it was seen that it disposed of his estate in a manner indicative of his life and character.

It provides for Mrs. Kimball such income as she may desire during her lifetime, together with the use of the real estate and articles of personal property.

It carries many legacies in the form of annuities to relatives, friends and employees.

The administration of the estate is left to three executors, Hon. Harry H. Dudley, Hon. Benjamin W. Couch, and Benjamin K. Ayers, all of Concord, who are instructed to pay Federal and State inheritance taxes out of income "in order that the principal of my estate, which is ultimately devoted to charitable purposes, may not be depleted by reason of such tax assessments."

The net estate after administration is devised to the Mechanicks National Bank as trustee of two trust funds, one of which, the "Henry A. Kimball Trust," consisting of the property which Mr. Kimball recently received under the will of his son, is established as a memorial to Henry A. Kimball, the income from which is devoted to annuities to relatives and friends and to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission, South Congregational Society, New Hampshire Orphans' Home, Margaret Pillsbury General Hospital, New Hampshire Memorial Hospital Association, Concord Public Library, New Hampshire Historical Society and Young Men's Christian Association.

The other trust established is the "Benjamin A. Kimball Trust" which carries the main part of Mr. Kimball's estate.

Under this trust are annuities for life to relatives, to friends and to employees, and many permanent annual and quarterly legacy payments to be made to various institutions.

For Dartmouth College is provided an annual income of $6000 "to be used to establish and maintain a professorship in Dartmouth College, for the study and teaching of the science of administration, to be known as The Benjamin A. Kimball Professorship of the Science of Administration, the object and function of which professorship shall be constantly to keep in contact with, and to interpret in the class room and through publications, the best procedure in administrative theory and practice, whether exemplified in the management and control of corporate industry or private enterprise, or appearing in governmental func-

tions and practices of nations and their municipal sub-divisions. While I wish and intend that a part, at least, of this work shall be incorporated into the College curriculum, in order that it may be of the widest possible influence in directing the minds of college men to the importance of the study of administration as a science, I also wish that the work shall be identified with and supplement the specialized work of the Amos Tuck School of Administration and Finance, in accordance with the ideals expressed in the letters of donation of its founder, Mr. Edward Tuck, who early saw the benefits to be derived from the application of trained minds to such problems."

The College is also to receive $4000 annually "to be used by them in improving and increasing the efficiency of the methods of teaching offered by Dartmouth College in all its departments, to the end that its students shall receive such mental training and discipline as will best develop their powers for useful and distinguished service in society; and believing that the college, with a student body not exceeding fifteen hundred, including all its departments, will best accomplish its ideals, I direct that no part of said payments shall be used for increasing the physical plant of the college other than for books and apparatus especially adapted to, and required for the accomplishment of the special object herein provided for."

The college also will receive one quarter of any surplus income which may accumulate in this trust.

The New Hampshire Memorial Hospital takes $250 yearly to maintain a free bed to be known as "The Myra Tilton Elliot Kimball Free Bed" and one quarter of the surplus income of the trust.

The Concord Public Library will receive $1000 a year for general maintenance and one quarter of the surplus income of the trust.

The New Hampshire Historical Society will receive $1000 annually for general maintenance, $250 a year to aid in the maintenance of the museum of the Society to be located in the old Society Building on North Main Street, one quarter of the surplus income of the trust, and various art treasures which Mr. Kimball had from time to time collected during his life time.

The Margaret Pillsbury General Hospital takes an annual payment of $1000, to be used for its general maintenances and $200 each year for the support of a free bed to be used for indigent persons.

The Concord Female Charitable Society will have an income from the trust of $100 a year in memory of Mr. Kimball's mother, Ruth Ames Kimball, and a like amount will be received by the New Hampshire Centennial Home for the Aged.

To the South Congregational Church and the Young Men's Christian Association is given $200 a year for their general purposes, and to the New Hampshire Orphans' Home at Franklin the sum of $300 a year.

The Boscawen Church Society will receive $200 a year.

Mr. Kimball's substantial and well appointed house, with its stable and garage, and its spacious grounds are given to the state of New Hampshire for use as a Concord home for the Governor of the State, this devise being as follows:

"I give, bequeath and devise my homestead, real estate, land and buildings, in said Concord, together with the furnishings and other articles of personal property in and about the premises, not herein

otherwise disposed of, unto my wife, Myra Tilton Elliot Kimball, for her use during the term of her natural life, and, upon her decease, I give, bequeath and devise said real estate, together with such articles of furniture and other household articles as shall be selected for this purpose by my Executors unto the State of New Hampshire, for use as a Governor's Mansion, to provide a suitable residence in the Capital of the State for future Governors. This devise is made upon condition that it be formally accepted by the state by written stipulation with my executors providing for the future care and upkeep of the buildings and the grounds. If at any time in the future the state should abandon the use of said property as a Governor's Mansion, or should fail to keep the same in suitable repair and condition to the satisfaction of my trustee, then said property shall revert to my estate to become a part of the Benjamin A. Kimball Trust herein created."

In such wise and beneficial ways Mr. Kimball provided that the fortune which his ability had amassed should bear annual fruit of usefulness and helpfulness in the years to come and should keep his memory deservedly green in the city and state he loved and served so well.

HOME

By Jean Rushmore Patterson.

Below the hill, the village lights appear,
Smoke spirals from an engine going South,
A mass of cloud rests on the mountan's rim,
And over me another mass
With pale green sky between it and the first.

I am alone upon the hill, and feel
As though I never wished to go indoors
Or leave this spot or see the day again,
But only breathe the autumn air
And look on clouds, and sky and mountain tops!

Then someone calls, and I go slowly back,
The house gleams with a cheer of earthly things,
The door is open, and a flood of light
Reveals my son who beckons me,
And what are hills, and sky and air to this?

THE STORY OF COLONEL THOMAS JOHNSON

By Frances Parkinson Keyes

PART II.

Having signed this paper, Thomas Johnson returned to Newbury, just at the time of the surrender of Cornwallis. But, curiously enough, the cause of the Colonists had never seemed more hopeless in Coos County than it did then, and for two years afterwards. Johnson, after his Canadian experience was well aware that schemes of various sorts were on foot to detach Vermont from the American cause, and to sell it to Canada; and as Jacob Bayley was the chief obstacle to these schemes, in the eyes of the British, they were extremely anxious to get him out of the way. Johnson had confided his fears, both for Coos County and for his friend, to Bayley as soon as possible after his return; and the fires of their early affection for each other, which, on Johnson's part, had never cooled, were rekindled; and when a final test came between his love for Jacob Bayley, and his own safety, almost—a rigid moralist might say, his own honor—the first proved the most powerful. The story telling of this test, is, to me, the most interesting that I have read in the entire history of the American Revolution; and I quote it in full from the Rev. Grant Power's "History of Coos County:"

"I have already stated how desirable an object it was with the British to get possession of Gen. Jacob Bayley. A bold and determined effort to effect this was made on the 17th of June, 1782, while Col. Johnson was at home on parole. Gen. Bayley lived at the Johnson village (i.e. the settlement on the Oxbow, where the Johnson houses stand, about a mile north of the village of Newbury) in a house where now stands the brick house of Josiah Little. Captain Prichard and his scouts, to the number of eighteen men, lay upon the heights west of the Oxbow, and they made a signal for Col. Johnson to visit them. Johnson went, as he was bound to do, by the terms of his parole, and he learned that they had come to capture Gen. Bayley that evening. Johnson was now in a great strait. Bayley was his friend, his neighbor, and a host against the enemy, and Johnson *could* not have him go into captivity; and yet he must seem to conform to the wishes of Prichard, or he would be recalled to Canada himself, and in all probability have his buildings laid in ashes. Johnson returned to his house, and resolved to inform Bayley of his danger, at all hazard to himself. But how was this to be done? Bayley, with two of his sons, was ploughing on the Oxbow. Prichard's elevated situation on the hill enabled him to look down on the Oxbow as upon a map. The secret was intrusted to Dudley Carleton Esq., the brother of Col. Johnson's wife. Johnson wrote on a slip of paper this laconic sentence, 'The Philistines be upon thee, Samson!' He gave it to Carleton, and instructed ***him*** to go on to the meadow, pass directly by Bayley without stopping or speaking, but drop the paper in his view, and return home by a circuitous route. Carleton performed the duty assigned to him well. Gen. Bayley, when he came to the paper, carelessly took it and read it, and, as soon as he could, without exciting suspicion in the minds of lookers on, proposed to turn out the team, said to his sons,

"Boys, look out for yourselves," and went himself down the bank to the river, and the sons went up to the house to carry the tidings to the guard that was stationed there. "And when, some hours later, the 'Philistines' went to seize their prey, 'Samson' was safe, miles down the river, and there was nothing for them to do but 'proceed their march to Canada, to report the failure of their expedition." "But," says Col. Elkins of Peacham in his letter of Dec. 7th, 1832, "the failure of the British, in the main object of their expedition, brought fresh trouble upon Col. Thomas Johnson. The Tories in the vicinity who had laid the plans for taking Gen. Bayley, learning that he was not at home that night, and knowing that it was not his habit to be absent from his family over night, unless on business out of town, said at once, Johnson was a traitor to their cause, for he must have given Bayley information of his danger. This rumor went with the party back to Canada, and produced strong sensation of jealousy and resentment there. Johnson was now the man to be obtained, and his buildings were to be destroyed by fire the next spring, if not before. But the disposition to peace in the mother country, and the actual treaty before the year came about, saved Johnson from the calamities threatened upon him."

Thomas Johnson's position, in regard to Jacob Bayley, was not the only difficult one in which he found himself after his release from Canada. His shrewdness and quick wit, as well as his integrity, had brought not only himself, and his home, but his dearly-loved friend safely through their bitterest troubles; before his death, this was clearly seen by all his townspeople; but, in 1782, this was by no means the case. The fact that he had been treated with such consideration while in Canada, compared to many other American officers, was held out against him by those who still persisted that he had Tory sympathies, and who could not—or would not—see that his wealth, provided that they could have got hold of it in some way through their apparent friendliness, would have been a great asset to the Canadians. Moreover, he was still on parole, technically a prisoner, likely to become actually one at almost any moment. He was, indeed, between the upper and the nether millstones. And he did what many other sorely perplexed souls at that time did—he laid his case before George Washington, and asked, quite simply, for his help.

"May it please your Excellency," he wrote from Newbury on May 30th, 1782, "to indulge me when I say that in the month of March, 1781, I was taken prisoner, as set forth in my narrative, continued in Canada until September, when I obtained liberty to return home on parole, which I could effect only by engaging to carry on a correspondence with them. This was my view, to get what intelligence I was able respecting their plans and movements, and in hopes to be exchanged, that I might be able, in a regular way, to have given some important intelligence. I have taken such measures as appeared most likely to effect the same; but as these have hitherto failed, I find the season so far advanced as not to admit of any further delay without acquainting your Excellency.

"The proposed plans of the enemy for the last campaign were frustrated for want of provisions; but they were determined to pursue them this spring as early as possible. To this end, they have used their unwearied efforts with

Vermont to prepare the way, which they have, in a great and incredible degree, brought to pass, and is daily increasing; and unless some speedy stop is put to it, I dread the consequences. I entreat your Excellency, that if it be possible, by a regular exchange, I may be enabled to give all the intelligence in my power without hazarding my character, which, otherwise, I am determined to do, at the risk of my honor, my all—and perhaps to the injury of hundreds of poor prisoners, now in their hands. Having had experience, I am grieved to think of their situation. This infernal plan of treachery with Vermont (as I have heard often in Canada) was contrived before Eathan Allen left the British, and he was engaged on their side. It ran through the country like a torrent, from New York to Canada, and the present temper of Vermont is a piece of the same. Were the people in general on the Grants, on this side of the mountains, to declare for New Hampshire or New York, it would be contrary to the agreement of their leading men; and, unless protected by your Excellency, the innocent with the guilty would share a miserable fate. This part of the country being sold by a few designing men, of whom a large number are very jealous, a small number have by me their in-

CHAPTER HOUSE AT NEWBURY, VT., OF OXBOW CHAPTER, D. A. R., ON SITE OF FIRST STATE HOUSE IN VERMONT.

former, or otherwise, got the certainty of it, and puts them in a most disagreeable situation. They are desirous of declaring for New Hampshire; but many of their leaders earnestly dissuading them from it, it keeps us in a tumult, and I fear the enemy will get so great an advantage as to raise their standard to the destruction of this part of the county. They keep their spies constantly in this quarter

without molestation, and know every movement, and transmit the same directly to Canada; and when matters take a turn contrary to their minds, we are miserably exposed to their severest resentment. I am entirely devoted to your Excellency's pleasure. Should my past conduct meet your Excellency's approbation, my highest ambition will be satisfied; if not, deal with me as your wisdom shall dictate. I most earnestly entreat your Excellency to meditate a moment on my critical and perplexing situation as well as that of this part of the country, and that I may receive by Captain Bayley, the bearer, who will be able to give you further information, your Excellency's pleasure in the affair. I beg leave to subscribe myself your Excellency's most devoted servant,

THOMAS JOHNSON."

Thomas Johnson's opinion at this time of Ethan Allen was shared by Jacob Bayley, and many other prominent Vermonters; indeed, it is said, probably with truth, that it was his stand on this matter alone that prevented Bayley from having the national and lasting reputation which should, by every right, have been his. Ethan Allen, like Johnson himself, had played a clever game with only poor cards in his hand to help him, and was out to win; and it is interesting, as well as sadly characteristic of human nature, that Thomas Johnson, so overwhelmingly unhappy because he himself was unjustly thought to be treacherous, was so ready to believe another ardent patriot guilty of the same crime!

Having written and despatched his letter to General Washington, Thomas Johnson apparently decided that he could not be satisfied merely to write to him—he must also see him. He accordingly set out for Newburg, where Washington was at the time, going by way of Exeter "to take counsel with the leading men there." And it was at Exeter that the General's reply reached him, and from that he next addressed himself to the Commander-in-Chief.

Headquarters, June 14th, 1782,

"To Col. Thomas Johnson,
Exeter, N. H.

Sir:

I have received your favor per Captain Bayley, and thank you for the information contained, and would beg you to continue your communication whenever you shall collect any intelligence you shall think of importance. It would give me real pleasure to have it in my power to effect your exchange; but some unhappy circumstances have lately taken place, which, for the present, cut off all exchange. If you can fall upon any mode to accomplish your wishes, in which I can with propriety give you my assistance, I shall be verv glad to afford it.

I am, Sir, etc.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

"Thos. Johnson to Gen. Washington.

Exeter, July 20th, 1782.

I am obliged to your Excellency's favor of the 14th of June, to acknowledge your Excellency's goodness in offering your assistance in my exchange. I think it proper to give a more particular account of my situation, and have enclosed a copy of my parole for your perusal. I think, agreeable to my parole, they cannot refuse a man in my room (?) although there is no exchange agreed on. Your Excellency will determine on my rank. I was held at Canada a lieutenant-colonel in the militia, agreeable to the order of the Assembly of New

York; but being at a great distance, before my commission could reach me, Vermont claimed jurisdiction, and I never had the commission, and told them the same. But I was obliged to acknowledge myself as such in my parole, or I could not have accomplished my design. My situation grows more distressing. I have been exposed by the infirmity or imprudence of a gentleman, one that we could not have expected it from. I have received nothing of much importance since my last. I have since received a confirmation of their intentions to execute rigorour measures against the imposers of Vermont. I have fears of an invasion of that part of New Hampshire by the imprudence above mentioned. I have fears of the correspondence being stopped. Have wrote to Canada: since which, by agreement, Capt. Prichard was to meet on Onion River, the 10th of this inst. Private concerns brought me here at this time. If suspicion don't prevent, I expect something of importance waiting for me; should it prevent, shall stand in the greatest need of a man to send in exchange for me.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

THOMAS JOHNSON."

Colonel Johnson wrote again to General Washington from Atkinson, N. H., on Sept. 30th, the contents of the letter being very like that of those which had preceded it. And, not long after, armed by two more letters—one from the Governor of New Hampshire, Meshech Weare, the other from Nathaniel Peabody of Atkinson (a member of the Council in New Hampshire, and later a member of Congress)—he resumed his journey, reaching Newburg on December 4th. The letters are both so interesting that I quote them in full:

"Meshech Weare to Gen. Washington.

Hampton Falls, Nov. 25th, 1782.

Sir:

The bearer, Col. Thomas Johnson, of whose conduct with respect to procuring information from the enemy your Excellency has been informed, now waits upon you to communicate to you some things which appear to be important. From every information I have been able to obtain, I have no reason to suspect his honesty and fidelity. His situation at this time is very difficult, as he will fully inform you and requests your assistance in such way as you may think proper. I cannot help expressing my fears of what may be the consequence of the negotiations carrying on between Vermont and Canada, of which there seems to be now scarce a doubt.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, yours, etc.

MESHECH WEARE."

"Nath. Peabody to Gen. Washington.

Atkinson, State of New Hampshire, Nov. 27th, 1782.

Sir:

I take the liberty to address your Excellency respecting the unhappy situation of Lieut. Col. Thomas Johnson, of Newbury, Coos, who will take charge of this letter, and do himself the honor to wait upon your Excellency in person. Col. Johnson is desirous to give your Excellency every information within his power, relative to the situation, strength, and designs of the enemy at the northward, the embarrassed state of affairs in the country where he lives, and more particularly the ineligible circumstances in which his own person, family, and domestic concerns are unhappily involved.

I have no doubt he has been ungenerously deceived, injured, and betrayed by some persons with whom he found it necessary to entrust certain secrets, to him of great importance, and from whom he had a claim to better treatment.

The latter end of last month I received a letter from Col. Johnson, the contents of which he will make known to you and I should have done myself the honor of transmitting the same, with other information, to your Excellency; but on a conference I had with the president of this state, it was concluded that entrusting affairs of that nature by common post-riders would be unsafe, for the public, and dangerous for Col. Johnson, and that it was inexpedient to despatch an express on purpose as it was adjudged probable your Excellency had such a variety of other channels for information, that there was little prospect of giving new and valuable intelligence. From the best information I have been able to obtain, my own observation, and the personal knowledge I have had for some years past, of Col. Johnson, I am led without hesitating to conclude that he is a faithful and sincere friend of the independence of these United States; that he would contribute everything in his power to promote the political salvation of this, his native country; and that he is a gentleman on whose declaration your Excellency may place full dependence.

I have the honor to be, etc., yours,

NATH. PEABODY."

In quoting these old letters, as in quoting Thomas Johnson's Canadian diary, I have not only left punctuation and spelling unchanged; I have not altered a single phrase in the slighest degree. They were all written by men whom we should now call "uneducated" but they are almost entirely free form grammatical errors, and in many places it seems to me that they show real mastery and power in using the English language in all its clearness and beauty.

Immediately upon his arrival at Newburg, Colonel Johnson was granted an interview by General Washington, who "assured him of his sympathy, and acknowledged his value of his services." Thus consoled, Johnson started for home again on December the 12th, his heart immeasurably lighter. He knew that his worst troubles were over. So—though this he did not know—was the war.

War, as we have had ample opportunity to find out for ourselves during the past two years, is not immediately followed by peace. It is followed by reconstruction. And, instead of settling back for a rest after the frontier was at last quiet again, and his own private difficulties straightened out, Thomas Johnson turned his attentions to the new problems which confronted not only Newbury, but Vermont—the first state to enter the Union after the American Revolution.

Until 1808, when Montpelier was at last fixed upon as the Capital, the General Assembly—or Legislature, as we call it now—met in different towns of importance through the state; and the first session was held in Newbury in October, 1787. Thomas Chittenden was Governor, Joseph Marsh Lieutenant-Governor, Jacob Bayley a member of the Governor's Council, and Thomas Johnson a Town Representative—a position which he afterwards held in nine other sessions. Most of the men of prominence throughout the State attended, coming on horseback, hiring pasturage, and turning their steeds out to grass until their official business was transacted! But nothing of any very great importance was done, and the "Old

Court House," where the meetings were held, was found to be entirely unsuited for that purpose, so, before the legislature met in Newbury again—in 1801—it was torn down, and a new building erected on a different site. As much of the old materal as possible was used, but there was not enough for the new structure, and the remainder was provided by popular subscription, Thomas Johnson giving four hundred dollars towards its erection, and also, it is noted, fifty dollars "towards liquor for the workmen." Perhaps it is no wonder that building operations progressed with more energy and enthusiasm in those days! We are constantly reminded that it was not considered inconsistent for a zealous church member and a devoted patriot like the Colonel to provide himself and his friends with "the cup that cheers." But there is one record in which we read that Mrs. Lovewell, the keeper of the tavern, expressed her dissatisfaction with Thomas Johnson because he sent her a barrel of rum which was half water, and that he was deeply offended, and *sued her for slander*! To possess, to sell, or to give away *undiluted* rum was entirely in keeping with his character, in his estimation; but to weaken it, was a dishonorable act! At the trial which resulted, it came out that the barrel, in charge of three hired men, had been an entire night in going from Thomas Johnson's house to Mrs. Lovewell's tavern, a distance of one mile. And as the hired men had no very satisfactory explanation to make of this, they were suitably reproved, and Thomas Johnson exonerated.

But to return to the State House—Wells' History of Newbury says that it "contained one large room, fitted up with desks for the House of Representatives, which had a small gallery at one end, over the entrance, while at the other end of the building was a Council Chamber for the Governor and Council. There were also several smaller rooms. Jeremiah Harris of Rumney was master builder, and, if tradition is correct, it was the first building in the 'North Country' to be erected by 'square rule.'" "Election day was the great event of the session in those days. On that day the Governor was officially notified of his election, and took his oath of office, which was afterwards administered to the Council. Then His Excellency, escorted by all the militia in the vicinity, rode in state to the meeting house, where the election sermon was delivered. One curious feature of the day must not be forgotten. Some months before the time, notice was given in the public prints that an original ode would be sung on that occasion, and the poets of the day were urged to prepare their strains in competition for the honor of producing the song to which music would be composed by Mr. Ingalls. Col. Thomas Johnson, William B. Bannister, and James Whitelaw were the committee to pass upon the merits of such productions as should be offered. When the time came for the decision, the committee found themselves unable to decide which of the effusions submitted by two gentlemen from Peacham, Ezra Carter and Barnes Buckminister, was the superior, and it was finally decided that Mr. Ingalls should compose music for both; that one, sung before the sermon should be called the Election Ode, and the other, to follow the discourse, should bear the title of the election hymn. Both were * * * accordingly sung, and both are preserved, in Mr. Ingall's singing book 'Christian Harmony.'" "Thomas Tolman of Greensboro,

one of the prominent men of the state in his time, was clerk of the House, and the following letter from him preserves for us some of the usages of the period.

Greensboro, July 16, 1801.

'Col. Thos. Johnson, Dear Sir:

I desire you to procure from Boston a Ream of the best paper, fine, thin, and soft for the pen, and also one dozen skins of vellum, or good parchment, for the handsome and fine writing of the legislature. Your account shall be paid, and also your trouble. If I may depend I will not make any other application. Add ¼ hundred of the best Holland quills. One thing more. I depend on you, if you please, to make a provision for a convenient place for my office and quarters. It must be near the legislature, contain a fireplace or stove, and, if convenient, a bed, as for a considerable part of the time I shall sleep in the same room. Excuse this trouble. My regards to Mrs. Johnson and your sons. I am, with consideration,

Your friend and humble servant,

THOS. TOLMAN.'"

The office of Town Representative was not the last public one that Thomas Johnson held; he was also Newbury's first postmaster, holding the position—a very important one in those days—from 1785 to 1800, when his son David succeeded him. And, as a private citizen, he became deeply interested in the two public institutions dearest to the heart of almost every early New Englanded—the Church and the School. For some time Newbury had been dissatisfied with its first "meeting-house," and at a special town meeting held in August, 1787, two articles of "warning" were read: "First, to see if the town will fix on a place to build a meeting-house; second, to see if the town will build a meeting house, and if so, how large, and where; to choose a committee to prosecute said business, and also what measures will be most expedient to prosecute and facilitate the same." Thomas Johnson, Dudley Carleton, and eight others were chosen a committee and in due course, a church was built, which for many years, was considered the finest for miles around, and to "have a meeting-house equal to the one in Newbury" became the ambition of every town in the vicinity. The steeple was the first erected in Vermont. The large stone door, which required four yoke of oxen to draw from Catamount in Haverhill, was placed in front of the main entrance by Jacob Bayley." Inside, continues the "History of Newbury,"—"The pulpit was high, that the minister might see his hearers in the galleries; it was reached by winding stairs, and above it hung a sounding board, suspended from the ceiling by an iron rod. In front of the pulpit was an elevated seat for the deacons, and before them was a wide board that hung on hinges, and formed a Communion table. The pews were about seven feet square, each having a door; there were seats on three sides of each pew. These seats were hung on hinges, and were raised against the sides of the pews when the congregation stood up during the long prayer, and were let down again at its close with a clatter which sounded like the discharge of a small artillery. * * Above the partitions of the pews ran a rail, supported by many small turned posts which were the delight of children to twirl in sermon-time."

So much for the church. Meanwhile, the early struggles to establish a suitable school, though they must have been serious enough

then, make amusing reading now. The teacher of the present day, who rightly feels his salary to be too small, may well ponder with an understanding sympathy the following entry in Col. Thomas Johnson's papers:

"Newbury, Nov. 8th, 1781.

We the Subscribers being met for the Purpose of Hiring a schoolmaster, have agreed to give a suitable person Ten Bushels of Wheat per Month if one cannot be hired for less or found, have chose Thos. Johnson, Capt. John G. Bayley, William Wallace, a Comity to regulate sd school."

This is signed by nine men, Thomas Johnson among them, but evidently he did not write it himself, as it does not bear much resemblance to most of his literary efforts! However that may be, the "Comity" does not seem, even at that remote time, to have been able to find a schoolmaster who considered ten bushels of wheat a sufficient recompense for his services, for the following entries come afterwards:

Newbury, Nov. 15th, 1781.

"We the subscribers do hereby promise to pay Samuel Hopkins seven pounds four shillings by the twelfth day of February next, to be paid in hard money, and hard money only, provided he teach a school three months according to the Directions we have given him of equal date herewith, if not then paid, then Interest till paid. Witness our hands."

Newbury, Feb. 5th, 1782.

"We the subscribers do hereby acknowledge that the within named Samuel Hopkins has performed this part of his Oblegation, and we are in duty bound to pay the same."

Newbury, Sept. 18th, 1786.

"We, the subscribers, do each agree to pay our equal proportion in Produce for the board and support of a good school master, Qualified to teach English, writing and Arithmetic in the midle district school and to find our proportion of wood at sd school, Provided there is a sufficient number of subscribers, not less than twenty, the School master to be immediately agreed for two or three months."

These were the small beginnings of the big school which, during the latter part of the nineteenth century, became well known as the Newbury Seminary. Boarders came to it from all over New England, and from Canada as well, and its removal to Montpelier—where, by the way, it never seemed to acquire the same standing—was a great blow to the town in more ways than one.

The church and the school were, as I have already said, of paramount importance in the heart and soul of every good New Englander in those days. But, to the dwellers in the Connecticut Valley, there was another structure upon which much of their comfort and activity depended, and that was the bridge. Ferries were, of course, used during the first days of the settlement, but as time went on, these proved to be entirely inadequate, as well as very dangerous, for the current of the Connecticut River is a swift one. The old hooded wooden bridges are disappearing fast, and the one between Newbury and Haverhill, built in 1834, has been one of the last to go. But even before that, there had been two others. One, known as the "Haverhill Bridge" was built in 1796 by popular subscription, the charter being granted to Thomas Johnson—who gave three hundred dollars

towards its erection—and six others. But this bridge met with an unhappy fate, as the ever-accurate Colonel records:

Newbury, April 18, 1797.

Colonel Johnson to General Chase.

"Sir:

You have no doubt heard of our misfortune as to loosing our Bridge, it was owing to two things: 1st the ambition of some of the proprietors wanting to have the longest arch yet built—2d some of the workmen were not equal to so great a piece of business. One abutment stands good, also the little Bridges with very little repairing are good, our Plank with a considerable part of the timber on hand. The main thing we want is a workman that understands building a Peer in the middle of the river, we have no man in this part of the country that ever helped build one, or knows anything about it. As you went through the business for us last year, I ask as a particular favor in behalf of the proprietors that you would recommend to us a suitable man to build a Peer. Our stone is all within ten rods of the river bank, our timber within ¾ mile. Our Peer will want to be twenty-five feet high. I wish you would make a brief guess what the cost would be to build such a Peer.

Yours, etc.,

THOMAS JOHNSON."

It is perhaps needless to say that a man competent to construct a "Peer" was found, and a new bridge built without delay!

The last years of Thomas Johnson's life were busy, but they were peaceful and happy. He lived to see the "work of his hands" finished—a joy that is not given to all men. He did an immense amount of writing, for which there is no doubt that he had a real gift; in another generation his literary distinction might have surpassed his military distinction, but authors were not greatly esteemed, as a rule, in those days. He built houses for his sons near his own—houses no less handsome than his own. One of them contains a ballroom with an arched ceiling, with fireplaces at either end, and with a raised seat all the way around it for the dancers to rest on—a huge, beautiful apartment running straight across the second story, where we can easily imagine the Colonel and his friends having all sorts of "good times." He built also a brick store, where everything from meal to calico was sold,—who says that department stores are a modern invention?—and where the old counter, with a step up to it, the old bins, and the old safe, still stand. His sons, like their father all became prosperous, respected, and well known. His eldest daughter, Betsey, married Isaac, Jacob Bayley's youngest son—a match which must have delighted the hearts of the two old friends—and went to live in a beautiful house, too—for the General, though he had lost more than $60,000 in the war—an immense sum for those days—had retrieved his fallen fortunes somewhat, and had also built himself a spacious dwelling, where Isaac and Betsey took up their abode with him, and the bride had a "drawing room" which any modern young matron might well delight in—twenty feet square, white-panelled, white-shuttered, white-mantelled, with many-paned windows facing south and East, and with two arched recesses on the eastern side—one called to this day "the courting corner," and the other "the marriage arch"—for which pleasant purposes they have now been used for six generations.

In 1819, Thomas Johnson died,

and was buried in the old Newbury cemetery, where forty-four other soldiers—fourteen of them officers—who fought in the American Revolution also rest. He was survived by his wife, and by seven of his fourteen children. His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. David Sutherland, the famous "priest of Bath." The monument which marks his grave, made of white marble, represents a sturdy oak tree with four strong branches, upon one of which is seated a dove—the tree, is, of course, the emblem of Thomas Johnson himself, while the four branches are his four surviving sons—John, Moses, David, and Hanes. The branch on which the dove sits is supposed to typify the eldest.

And here, in one way, ends the story of Colonel Thomas Johnson. In another way, it has not ended yet—it never will end.

There is no place that I intimately know—and I know a good many—where the present and the past are as closely linked as they are in Newbury. In 1897, when the Oxbow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded by one of Thomas Johnson's great-granddaughters, Mrs. John Henry Wheeler (Louise Fuller Johnson) it contained twenty charter members. And everyone of those twenty charter members was eligible to the Society through Thomas Johnson, or Jacob Bayley, or both—for, of course, the second generation of Johnsons and Bayleys were cousins through the marriage of Isaac and Betsey. The houses that the General and the Colonel built have not only never gone out of the family, but have descended from father to son for six generations—and Jacob Bayley's was never closed, until, in 1918, his great great-grandson went to France. Their descendants are now almost as the sands of the sea in number, and the qualities of mind and body and spirit which these early founders of the town bequeathed to them, have proved the best legacies which they could have left to posterity. Ideals do not die. The ideals of Thomas Johnson are as vital now as they were one hundred and fifty years ago, and as long as they live, his story will never be really finished.

The Oxbow Chapter flourished and grew, and before many years had passed it was plainly seen that a Chapter House was needed. A little deserted district school, located on the site of the first State House in Vermont, was bought, and restored and beautified with a huge fireplace, and hardwood floors, and electric lights, but most of all with the precious heirlooms that were brought there. Here is the mirror that Prudence Bayley hid in a hole dug in her back garden, when the "Philistines" were in pursuit of "Samson." Here is the desk at which General Jacob wrote his famous message to the Indians; and here are the table about which the first legislature in Vermont met, and the wooden ballot box in which the first votes were cast. Here, in cabinets, are bits of beautiful lace, and linen and embroidery, fans and silver and beaded work, and china. And here, over the mantel, is a bronze tablet bearing this inscription:

"In memory of Elizabeth Ladd Childs.

Born 1830—Died 1894.

Daughter of Judge Peabody Ladd

Great grand-daughter of

COLONEL THOMAS JOHNSON

Given by

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Childs

In loving tribute to their mother.

1913.

At the time of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the town, a fine monument to the memory of General Jacob Bayley was given, and granite markers, bearing bronze plates were erected by the Oxbow Chapter where the first meeting-house, the first court house, and other buildings important in the early settlement of the town, had stood. One was erected, also, to the memory of Colonel Thomas Johnson, and unveiled by two of his great great great grandsons, Henry Wilder Keyes, Jr. and John Parkinson Keyes.* It bears the following inscription:

Colonel Thomas Johnson
1742-1819

One of the first settlers of Newbury, 1762.

Influential in organizing the town and state.

Revolutionary Officer.

Aid to General Lincoln at Ticonderoga, 1777.

A Prisoner in Canada 1781.

Elected Representative ten times.

This marks the location of the first settlement of the town.

Erected by his descendants
Under the auspices of
Oxbow Chapter, D. A. R.

This, in brief, is, I suppose, a fair and illuminating record of his services—though I wish Nathaniel Peabody's definition of him as "a gentleman upon whose declaration your excellency may place full dependance—" might also have been used. Of his energy, his faithfulness, his diplomacy, his generosity, a tablet of this sort can, perforce, say nothing. Neither does it mention his talent for writing—a talent, as I have said before, less regarded in his generation than in ours, and—perhaps on that account—largely overlooked by his descendants. Nor does it say anything of what is, to me, the greatest of all the great qualities that he possessed—his genius for friendship. There have been many great writers in the world, many great pioneers, many great soldiers; but the number of great friends of whom we have certain knowledge is comparatively small. For six generations—let me repeat it—the homes of Jacob Bayley and Thomas Johnson have never gone out of the hands of their descendants—please God they never will! For six generations the fertile meadows of the Oxbow have been—and still are—ploughed and harvested by the descendants of the man who proudly recorded that "he got in ninety tons of excellent hay." The Lord has, indeed, caused his face to shine upon us, and given us peace. Does the blessing of that ancient friendship enfold us still, I wonder? I feel, sometimes, wonderfully sure that it does. And, because of this, I cannot help quoting a story much older than the one of Thomas Johnson as I close this chronicle of what is not, after all, so much a fragment of the history of a great war as it is the history of the unbroken circle of one man's deep and abiding love for another.

"And it came to pass that the soul of Jonathan was knit unto the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul, his father, and said 'Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, for he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistines, and the Lord wrought a great salvation through all Israel. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying 'Let the Lord require it at the hand of David's enemies! And Jonathan

*The two elder sons of the writer of this article.

caused David to swear again, because he loved him. For he loved him as he loved his own soul. And Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for as much as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, "The Lord be between thee and me, and between thy seed and my seed forever.'"

ON DRESDEN HILL AT TWILIGHT

By Perley R. Bugbee.

When the sun purples the distant hills,
And tints with gold the passing cloud,
It is as the Maker wills,
Nature sings her praises loud.

The evening breezes softly blow
O'er the grasses a summer's dew,
The woods dark and darker grow,
While stars dot the heavens blue.

Vesper songs end in silence,
A stillness pervades the air.
Hushed and quiet are the highlands,
Night reigneth everywhere.

EDITORIAL

The announced results of the 1920 census show a very small gain in population for the state of New Hampshire as a whole; a considerable gain in the cities of Manchester and Berlin; a small gain in most of the other cities and in some towns in which manufacturing villages are located; slight losses in some cities and most towns; and decided decreases in a number of rural communities. All this is about as expected, though some pessimists had predicted greater losses and some optimists had hoped for larger totals in several cities.

But the fact that the conditions, as revealed, were not surprising, does not alter their significance; rather it should impress us more deeply with the necessity for attempting to solve the problems which they present. Within the past quarter of a century good roads, rural mail delivery, telephones, electric lights, automobiles, better schools, farmers' organizations, etc., have improved rural conditions and obviated many of the objections to life on the farm. Yet the drift to the cities continues with the resultant increase in cost of those necessities of life which the farm produces and with a lower health average for our people as a whole.

It is easier to state these facts than to suggest a remedy. We can only hope for attention to it from our best minds. Improvement of highways and schools will continue; better co-operation among the farmers themselves seems close at hand and with that achieved it will be easier to put city and country, consumer and producer, in relations with each other that will be more profitable and less irritating for both.

The problem is not at all local to New Hampshire. It is country-wide. In this state the summer visitor and summer resident population is a larger factor than elsewhere, but the essentials are the same. Conditions must change so that the boys and girls now on the farms will be content to stay there as men and women; new families must be wooed back from the cities to own and live upon now untilled farms; farming must be put upon as good business principles as keeping a store or managing a mill. Not only must the land be cultivated, but the market, as well, the cash market nearest home. In seeking a more distant market co-operation is almost essential. Every New Hampshire farmer who buys a California orange or lemon and reads its wrapper can take from it a lesson for his own apple crop, a lesson as to condition, grade, transportation and profit.

In many ways existing conditions seem well calculated for placing New Hampshire agriculture upon a more profitable basis in the near future. The farmers through the Grange and the Farm Bureaus, never were so well organized. The Chambers of Commerce and like organizations and the bankers and capitalists are more appreciative of the importance of agriculture to them and of the benefits from co-operation between country and city. The day is not far distant when the development of New Hampshire waterpower will render secure the future of our industries and increase their number and importance. That will expand in turn the home market for our farmers.

We look to see a greater increase in population in New Hampshire during the decade ending in 1930

than in that ending in 1920. But for the best interests of the state that increase in population must not be centered in the cities and manufacturing villages. The farms must share in it, and we hope and believe that they will.

THE PILGRIMS

By Lucy H. Heath.

A fearless band of pioneers,
Bravely they sailed across the sea,
And laid foundations for a faith,
Which reaches down to you and me.

Religious freedom here they sought,
Their purpose was to do God's will,
It was their faith that buoyed them up,
Through the beginnings good and ill.

Their hardships truly were severe,
Many were laid beneath the sod.
But through it all with inward zeal,
They trusted in a living God.

BOOK OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INTEREST

YOU CAN, BUT WILL YOU? By Orison Swett Marden. Pp. 338. Cloth. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co.

This is the latest volume in that famous series of "inspirational books" from the pen of Dr. Orison Swett Marden, of which more than one million and three quarters have been sold. It is impossible to dismiss with a phrase or a paragraph works which fill satisfactorily so great a demand on the part of the reading public. They must carry a real message and be convincing as to their sincerity, as well as pleasing with their point and "pep."

Doctor Marden was born in Thornton, New Hampshire, up in the Pemigewasset valley, seventy years ago. He has taken four degrees from Boston University and one from Harvard and has written something more than 50 books, in addition to a great number of magazine articles.

Of every one of them the slogan is "success" and the purpose is to boost. The style is lucid and convincing and the author is not afraid of iteration. To every man and woman, to every boy and girl, who comes within the reach of his preachments, he says "Make the most of yourself!" and he says it over and over again.

Withal, his books are eminently readable and of none is this more true than of the present volume with its challenging title. This paragraph might be chosen from many similar ones as the text of the discourse: "Most of us are dwarfs of the men and women we might be because we do not know our power. We have vast possibilities, and yet are doing the work of pigmies, because we never draw upon that inner force which would make us giants."

There are seventeen chapters from Number One, "The Magic Mirror," to Number Seventeen, "Do you carry victory in your face?" all embodying this "new philosophy of life."

NEW HAMPSHIRE NECROLOGY

DANIEL WEBSTER LAKEMAN

Daniel Webster Lakeman, long a leading citizen of Nashua and the contractor who erected many of its principal buildings, died August 7. He was born in Goshen, November 17, 1839, the son of Sherborn and Mariette (Webster) Lakeman, and came to Nashua with his parents when but three years of age. In addition to his contracting business he was a large real estate owner and was the active director of the Pennichuck Water Works for a long time, his service on the board covering 38 years. He had been a member of Granite Lodge, I. O. O. F., for more than 50 years and a trustee of the Main Street Methodist Episcopal church for more than 30 years. As a trustee of Edgewood cemetery, much of the credit for the beautifying of its grounds was due to him. He was a Republican in politics and had served in the city council. He is survived by one son, Harry D. Lakeman of Portland Me. An older son, Frank W. Lakeman, long a school principal in Nashua, died a few years ago.

DANIEL W. HAYDEN

Hon. Daniel W. Hayden, 80, died in his native town of Hollis, July 17. He was born on the family homestead which his ancestors settled in 1760, and obtained his education in the local schools with supplemental courses in civil engineering and surveying. In 1861 he enlisted in Company H, Seventh New Hampshire Volunteers, serving until April 28, 1864, when he was discharged for disability because of wounds received at Fort Wagner and Olustee, Florida. With his brother, David, he built the dam and mill known as Hayden's mill which they conducted for half a century. For 29 years Mr. Hayden was chief of police; selectman four years; member of the house of representatives in 1901 and of the state senate in 1911, and a delegate to the constitutional conventions of In addition to his other activities, Mr. Hayden, because of his training as an engineer, had much to do with the construction of roads and bridges in his section of the state. He is survived by a widow; a daughter, Bertha; a brother, David; and a sister, Mrs. John L. Woods, all of Hollis.

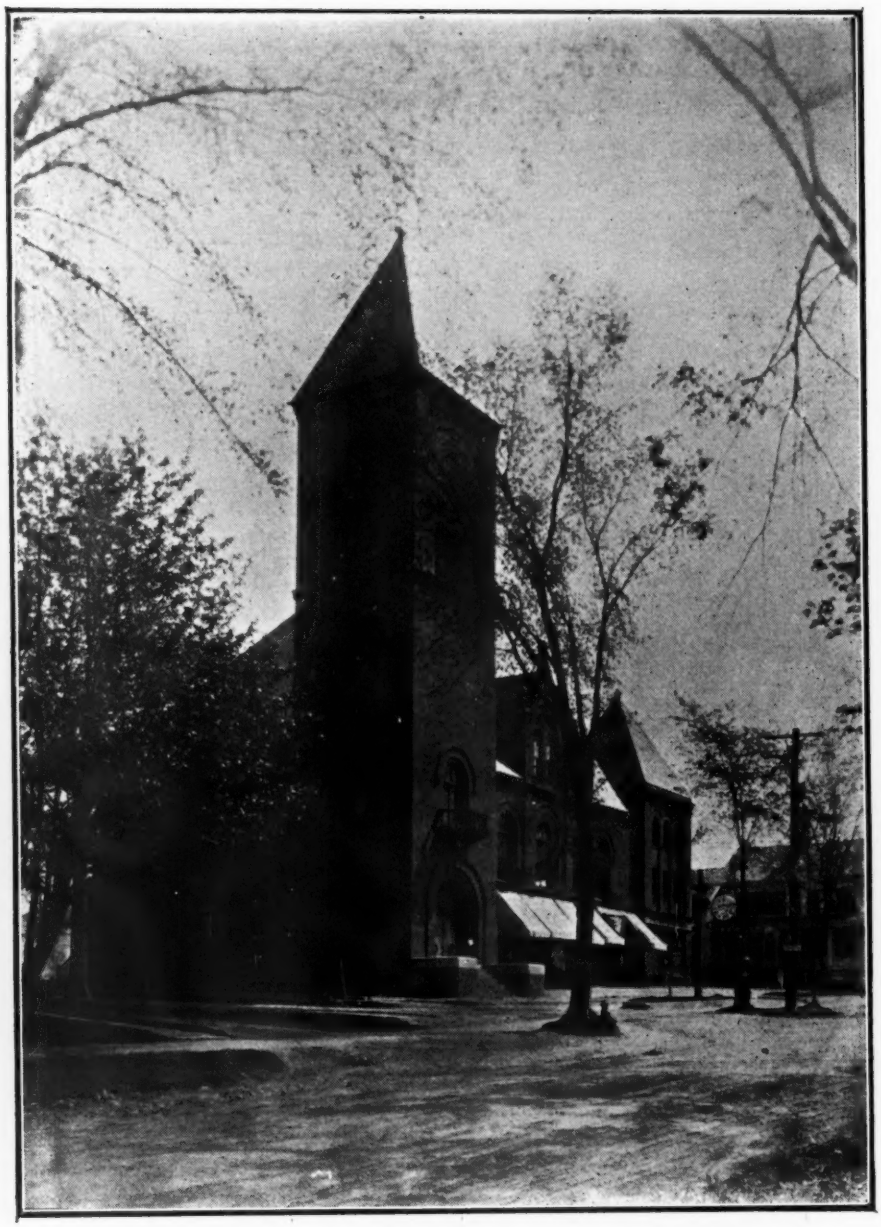
HON. J. FRANK SEAVEY

James Frank Seavey, one of Dover's most distinguished citizens, died there August 15. He was born in Rochester, August 14, 1838, the son of Samuel F. and Eliza K. (Ham) Seavey, and was educated at public and private schools in that city and at the Franklin Academy, Dover. When 19 years of age he began business life in Dover as a clerk, and eight years later engaged in the clothing trade for himself in company with his brother. Later in life he engaged successfully in many other business enterprises; organizing the J. Frank Seavey Lumber Company of which he was president; acting as president of the Dover Co-operative bank; and being for many years interested in the Dover Navigation Company, one of whose vessels bore his name. Mr. Seavey entered public life in 1867 as a member of the city council and also served as selectman and ward clerk. From 1869 to 1872 he was treasurer of Strafford county. In 1878-80 he served in the state House of Representatives, and in 1881 and 1883 in the State Senate. In 1903 and 1904 he was a member of Governor Nahum J. Bachelder's executive council. He was a member of Strafford lodge, No. 29, A. F. and A. M., Belknap chapter, No. 8, R. A. M., Orphan Council, No. 1, R. and S. M., and St. Paul Commandery, Knights Templar. He was a charter member of Olive Branch lodge, No. 6, Knights of Pythias, and served that order as grand chancellor in 1876 and supreme representative in 1878 and 1879. He also was an Odd Fellow, of lodge and encampment membership. Mr. Seavey married, April 20, 1863, Sarah F., daughter of Daniel K. and Hannah (Ham) Webster of Dover. Their two children were Grace W., widow of Montgomery Rollins, and Walter H. Seavey of E. H. Rollins and Sons, Boston, Mass. Mrs. Seavey died in 1900.

DREAM SONGS

By Leighton Rollins

I can not sleep,
For a thousand witching melodies
Are wildly beating against their prison gates,
And alas, I can not set them free,
Dream songs of the summer moon.
My violin will not play them,
And my voice will not sing them.
Oh, Children of my heart,
I can not save you,
Death comes before your birth.



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